

REMARKS

The applicant acknowledges receipt of the Advisory Action mailed on November 10, 2004, in response to the applicant's previous reply to the Final Office Action mailed July 9, 2004.

In the Advisory Action, the "Examiner maintains that the superblocks and dinode [of Soltis] are equivalent to the claimed formal description of the file system because they are stored on the disk and a client must read them, before accessing a file, to determine where the file is and how to access it."

Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the formal description of the file system "enables said client to find and interpret at least one data structure comprising file information" but does not include such a data structure comprising file information itself. As indicated in the original application (e.g. p. 11, ll. 19-22), this file information may consist of the superblocks and dinode that the examiner refers to. That is, the formal description is not the data which the client uses to determine where files are and how to access them; rather, it informs the client how to discover that data on its own. In the system described in Soltis, the client would be aware of what file information to expect, and would use that information to read and write files. In contrast, in certain embodiments of the invention recited in amended claim 1, the formal description informs the client what file information it will need, but does not provide that file information, as the client is able to find that information itself once it has read the formal description.

Claims 16, 20, and 25 have been similarly amended. These claims and the independent claims are patentable for at least the same reasons as those presented with respect to claim 1.

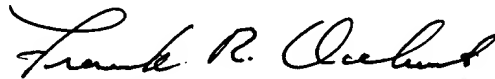
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Enclosed is a check for \$790.00 for the Request for Continued Examination Fee and a \$1,020.00 check for the Petition for Extension of Time fee (3 months, large entity). Please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050, referencing Attorney Docket Number 07072-133001.

Respectfully submitted,

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